

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO
EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school track and field team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young men of Eastwood High School's Track and Field team have represented their school and families ably on their way to achieving their first ever State Track and Field Championship.

In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division II State Track and Field Championship, the Eastwood Eagles overcame the challenges posed by injuries and intense competition.

In their bid for the State Title, the Eastwood High Boys Team produced 4 All-Ohio performances from individuals on the team. In winning the Ohio State Division II Track and Field Championship, the members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication on and off the track, both their efforts and their results were outstanding.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Eastwood High School Boys Track Team. Our communities are well served by the type of effort and perseverance demonstrated by these young men. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of this Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you Chairman BERMAN for your efforts on H.R. 2410, Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. The Committee has once again produced legislation that will help America engage its neighbors and promote national security.

The primary objective of this legislation is to rebuild the capacity of the Department of State to fulfill its core diplomatic mission in fulfilling U.S. national security goals. In a recent hearing Secretary Clinton stated that the priorities of the State Department and other international organizations are clear. Their focus is to deploying the tools of diplomacy and development along with military power. We are securing historic alliances, working with emerg-

ing regional powers, and seeking new avenues of engagement. While this may seem like a herculean task, I have confidence that these goals can be successfully accomplished with the passing of this legislation.

H.R. 2410 is a wide encompassing bill that will set the tone on how we engage other nations and strengthen the use of diplomacy as a tool to interact with other countries around the world. This legislation will give President Obama and Secretary Clinton the non-military support they need to engage other nations and change the view of America in the world. President Obama has stated that defense, diplomacy and development are the three keys to strengthening our national security. In recent years, diplomacy and development have been short-changed. Capacity must be rebuilt in these critical areas.

In addition, I appreciate my Sense of Congress language being included in Section 1127, entitled Sense of Congress Sudan, that the United States should support efforts to find a stable and lasting peace in Sudan in the wake of devastating conflict that led to major humanitarian disaster in Darfur and through the Sudan. This conflict caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands and continues to cause violence in Darfur and throughout Sudan. The language further provides that to achieve peace in Darfur, all parties must agree to uphold the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The language provides that the United States should support efforts to prepare for the national elections and for the referendum. It further provides that the United States should support efforts to develop international strategy to support the rebuilding of Sudan, with a particular focus on key CPA benchmarks including transitional justice, actions addressing the perpetrators of war crimes, policies towards, the return of displaced Darfuris and other people to their homeland, and management of the armed forces, and that U.S. policy toward Darfur should be fully integrated with U.S. policy toward the CPA as a full and lasting resolution to the Darfur crisis hinges on the resolution of a common set of national problems. We must insure the solution to the continued genocide in Sudan.

To understand the importance of my Sense of Congress language, it is important to address the history of Sudan. The crisis in Darfur began in February 2003, when two rebel groups emerged to challenge the National Congress Party (NCP) government in Darfur. The crisis in Darfur in western Sudan has led to a major humanitarian disaster, with an estimated 2.45 million people displaced, more than 240,000 people forced into neighboring Chad, and an estimated 450,000 people killed.

In July 2004, the House and Senate declared the atrocities in Darfur genocide and on May 4, 2006, the Government of National Unity and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army signed the Darfur Peace Agreement after almost two years of negotiation. In July 2007, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1769, authorizing the deployment of a robust peacekeeping force in Darfur. The resolution authorized the United Nations African Union force in Darfur to take all necessary measures to protect its personnel and humanitarian workers.

In July 2008, International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo accused President Omar Bashir of Sudan of

genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes and asked ICC judges to issue an arrest warrant for President Bashir. On March 4, 2009, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber issued a warrant of arrest for President Bashir. On March 4, 2009, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber issued a warrant of arrest for President Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It is important that against this backdrop that the U.S. reaffirms that genocide is still occurring in Darfur, displaced individuals should be resettled in their homeland, and the perpetrators of war crimes should be prosecuted.

This legislation is intended to shore up U.S. diplomacy and development efforts. Defense, diplomacy, and development are the three pillars of our national security. In recent years, diplomacy and development have been short-changed. Capacity must be rebuilt in these critical areas.

The legislation authorizes hiring 1500 additional Foreign Service Officers over the next two years and contains provisions on recruitment and training of officers to improve the Foreign Service's ability to respond to modern challenges. It requires the State Department to conduct a quadrennial review of its policies and programs that defines objectives, budget requirements and how these programs fit into the President's national security strategy.

Among other significant measures in the bill are provisions that:

Ensure that the United States will meet its financial commitments to the United Nations (U.N.) and other international organizations;

Allow financing the refurbishment of helicopters for U.N. peacekeeping missions in Darfur, the Republic of Congo and Chad;

Establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation as a new executive branch corporation to expand dramatically the number and economic diversity of U.S. students studying overseas;

End the long-standing practice of excluding the committed partners of Foreign Service officers from the benefits routinely provided to the spouses and children of officers serving abroad;

Support the Administration's plan to double the size of the Peace Corps, and authorize a plan to use short-term volunteers to respond to humanitarian and development needs worldwide;

Broaden the Merida anti-drug trafficking initiative to include the Caribbean, and improve monitoring and evaluation of Merida programs; and

Increase resources and training for enforcement of intellectual property rights, especially in countries identified by the U.S. government as lax in enforcing those rights.

I have also worked tirelessly on incorporating my bill on Statelessness in its entirety in Section 1104, entitled "Statelessness." The purpose of this section is to increase global stability and security for the United States and the international community and decrease trafficking and discrimination by reducing the number of individuals who are de jure or de facto stateless. As a consequence of their statelessness, individuals are unable to claim right to a nationality and its respective rights and obligations, and instead they are excluded from full participation in civil society. The framework of this language establishes that the right to a nationality is a foundation of human rights, and a deterrent to displacement, since the State is the primary vehicle through which people are guaranteed their inalienable rights, and are made subject to the rule of law.